

KAPPA ALPHA

AUTUMN 2021

THETA

Magazine



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Take Time for You This Season

BY: ISABELLA MARKOVSKI-DICKEY | ALPHA/DEPAUW



Almost on cue, this time of year always seems to put the brain on overdrive. Everything feels a little more fragile, more stressful, more urgent. Final exams are approaching. Projects need to be wrapped up around and before holiday breaks or time off. It seems like more events are occurring and being planned—or maybe even being cancelled or re-planned due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The day-to-day just feels...overwhelming! Nobody

knows this better than Thetas who are some of society's hardest workers, most detailed planners, and most reliable friends and family members.

When everything is on fast-forward, it's so important that we pause, slow down, and be present. It's easy to become enveloped in a faster pace of crossing Ts and dotting Is, but I know I am always grateful I took the time to breathe, reassess, and prepare. Remember that self-care is not selfish and that you, too, need the care and comfort you give to everything and everyone else around you. In order to ace exams, get everything done on time, and do good work, one must be kind to themselves first.

This Autumn 2021 digital issue features plenty of discussion about the goings on of Theta in the realm of current educational programs and volunteerism. Consider reading this issue as the perfect break and cozy up with your favorite blanket and warm beverage when you take in all that we've put into this issue.

- Page 7's Ask the Archivist features a little deep-dive into the archives at Kappa Alpha Theta headquarters. Staff Archivist Noraleen DuVall Young, Alpha Chi/Purdue, shares a few of her favorite things about working with Theta's memories.

- Page 9's Leading Woman, Julia Link Roberts, Alpha Mu/Missouri, is a scholar in the field of gifted education and is a passionate advocate for gifted and talented children to receive the education they need to thrive.

- Page 12's 10 Questions, Erin Smith, Epsilon Zeta/Mississippi, is a passionate Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) and Theta volunteer who knows that kindness, loyalty, and selflessness are the keys to successful relationships and a better life.

This season, remember to check in with yourself, call a Theta sister, and remember that Theta is here for you even in your busiest moments.

Bella

The *Kappa Alpha Theta Magazine* (ISSN 0746-3529) is published quarterly by Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity for Women, 8740 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268. Postmaster: Send all UAA to CFS. Nonpostal and Military Facilities: Send address changes to the Kappa Alpha Theta Magazine, 8740 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268. Periodical-class postage paid at Indianapolis, IN, and additional mailing offices. Yearly subscription \$1. Printed in the United States.

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- Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity, founded at Indiana Asbury College (DePauw University), Greencastle, Indiana, on January 27, 1870, is the first Greek-letter fraternity for women.
- "Kappa Alpha Theta," "Theta," its coat of arms, its badges, and the Leading Women logo are registered trademarks of Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity.
- Because Kappa Alpha Theta is not an officially recognized student organization at Santa Clara, Georgetown, and Harvard, these schools prohibit using their names in any published reference to our Eta Lambda, Theta Iota, or Zeta Xi Chapters. We designate those chapters with a tilde (~) accompanied by the name of the school.
- A majority of the photos featured in this issue were submitted by members from events that occurred in safe and controlled environments related to COVID-19.
- While some terms used in telling members' stories and personal experience are not currently in use, they were accurate at the time of these members' college experiences.
- In our Summer 2021 issue's 35 Under 35 feature, we listed Noelle Quong's chapter affiliation as Eta Eta/Idaho when it should have been listed as Eta Eta/College of Idaho. We apologize for this error!

News, Views, & Stuff You Can Use



▲ Beta Mu/Nevada

THETA RETURNS TO HARVARD

In December 2017, Harvard College finalized sanctions that prevented members of single-gender organizations, including sororities, from holding student group leadership positions, varsity athletic team captaincies, and certain prestigious fellowships. The policy led to the closure of three sororities including Zeta Xi Chapter. We are proud to have stood by the students at Harvard in the fight for college women to retain their rights to the full college experience, including leadership opportunities outside of Theta. And, we celebrated when that battle was won last fall after the successful conclusion of a pair of lawsuits against Harvard. Harvard has since dropped the sanctions against members of single-gendered organizations.

It was always our hope to re-establish Zeta Xi Chapter when members would be safe from potential sanctions. We are thrilled to share with you that members of Grand Council have unanimously approved the return of Zeta Xi Chapter in Spring 2022! The members of Zeta Xi Chapter have been leading women as both undergraduates and alumnae, and we look forward to continuing Theta's strong legacy in Cambridge, Mass. If you know a student who currently attends Harvard and believe they would make a great member of Kappa Alpha Theta, we encourage you to share with her the news of Theta's return and to submit a Potential New Member (PNM) Introduction on her behalf as soon as possible!

AWARDED FOR EXCELLENCE

For the second time in the last three years, Theta Foundation received recognition from the Foundation for Fraternal Excellence (FFE) for the outstanding work in fundraising during our sesquicentennial year; On Aug. 24, 2021, Theta Foundation received the 2021 Award of Distinction for Best Major Gifts Development Effort, the same award received in 2019. Theta was selected out of both our fraternity and sorority peers, receiving one of only eight organizational awards given annually.

Between the Giving Tuesday and Pansy Patch campaigns surrounding Theta's sesquicentennial in 2020, Theta Foundation developed the 150 Giving Clubs at the \$15,000, \$1,500, and \$150 giving levels (In Love, In Hope, and In Faith, respectively). The major gift effort surrounding the 150 Giving Clubs created a solid foundation upon which the rest of the development strategy was built. It enabled flexibility when external circumstances required it to be adapted and it cannot be overstated: the success of Theta Foundation's fundraising in 2020 was the direct result of a well-developed, cohesive strategy that connected gift opportunities and empowered donors to have the greatest impact in the way most meaningful and efficient for them.

Though the Theta Foundation team was proud to accept this award on behalf of the organization, this recognition from FFE truly belongs to the visionary and generous donors that made this milestone possible.

MAINTAINING CONNECTIONS

Each college chapter (active and inactive) has an alumnae contact officer (ACO). It is this volunteer's responsibility to ensure that all the women from her chapter remain connected to Theta. She does this by finding "lost" Thetas: women for whom we no longer have a current address.

Technology has made this an easy volunteer position for alumnae to do anywhere in the world. In fact, we have ACOs living in El Salvador and Germany! You can also be an ACO for a chapter other than your chapter of initiation. If you think this might be the volunteer role for you, check out the vacancies below and email volunteerengagement@kappaalphatheta.org.

Xi/Wesleyan
Beta Iota/Colorado
Beta Lambda/William & Mary
Gamma Tau/Tulsa
Epsilon Sigma/UC Irvine
Zeta Rho/UC San Diego
Eta Lambda/~
Theta Lambda/Rochester
Theta Mu/Mines



▲ Gamma deutron/Ohio Wesleyan

Founders Day 2022

In the November 1926 edition of the *Kappa Alpha Theta Journal*, now known as the *Kappa Alpha Theta Magazine*, Ruth Ketcham, Beta Pi/Michigan State, shared a first-hand experience of her new chapter's first Grand Convention:

"The first night, as the train backed into the station in Chicago and I first saw the lighted Kappa Alpha Theta sign, I realized that I belonged to a greater organization than the bounds of my own chapter. It had been hard for me to visualize in my mind the idea that we belonged to a greater organization and we were not only responsible now to ourselves, but to others too. As each hour passed I realized more and more the vastness and quality of our fraternity."

After reading this quote, I was struck by the use of the word belonging and it reminded me of my own membership experience. As a young college woman, my Theta sisters taught me about belonging. Whether it was a warm smile, a listening ear, or an invitation to join an activity, I knew that my sisters accepted and valued me. This feeling of belonging has followed me throughout my Theta experience, inspiring me to be sure that every member I meet feels that they belong in Theta, too.

Belonging. What does it mean to belong? Feeling that you belong means coming home to your family's warmth after a long, hard day at work. It means the ability to be your true, authentic self in the presence of those who love you most. It's the basic human need to feel comfortable and loved and wanted. Many aspects of our world today have seemingly forgotten how to make us feel that we belong, but that must not be the case for Kappa Alpha Theta. It's only natural that we recognize, foster, and intentionally cultivate that in our own sisterhood. Without a doubt, belonging is strongly linked to sisterhood.

Giving to the Friendship Fund is just one way that we can ensure a Theta sister feels that she belongs in this Fraternity. The Fund was established in 1926 to be a tangible expression of the support and warmth we show to one another. This writing from the January 1930 edition of the *Kappa Alpha Theta Journal* displays the incredible impact of the Friendship Fund, one that transcends decades and generations past:

"Because the calls upon the fund have, so far, been few, people have asked, 'Is the fund worthwhile?' Let the answer come in the following quotation from a letter written by the alumnae secretary last spring: *I have been very much discouraged lately and somewhat rebellious about the unjust distribution of pain, sorrow, and trouble there seems to be in the world. Your letter has done more than offer me financial help, which I certainly need; it assures me that there is something which compensates in the loyalty of friends who can offer at the same time that they don't know me. That translates Theta into very real terms.*"

Your gift to the Friendship Fund alleviates the stress of a Theta sister caused by life tragedies she might be experiencing. A gift to the Friendship Fund tells a Theta that she belongs here.

This Founders Day, and throughout this year, I hope that you will consider how special it is to feel that you belong to this community and to something so much bigger than ourselves.

Happy Founders Day, Thetas.

Mandy Burgett Wushinske

Mandy Burgett Wushinske
Fraternity President

Theta's Memory: The Archives at Kappa Alpha Theta

By: **Noraleen DuVall Young | Alpha Chi/Purdue**



Located on the lower level of 8740 Founders Road, you will find tangible sources of Theta's institutional memory in the archives: belongings of our four founders, early minute books containing decisions about policies and procedures, information about the establishment of chapters, stories in the form of scrapbooks and mementos

from individual members, publications from the magazine to handbooks and manuals, artifacts from badges and jewelry to textiles and scrapbooks, and photographs of all kinds.

Theta formally established its archives at Grand Convention 1899 with the appointment of a volunteer position of Fraternity archivist. The physical archives were located where the archivist lived so Grand Council minutes include permissions to purchase trunks and fire-safe containers to store records. By the 1920s, the archivist lived in Greencastle, Ind., and the archives were stored at the Alpha Chapter at DePauw University. In the mid-1960s, as Theta began to plan for its 100th anniversary in 1970, the archives moved to Evanston, Ill., to Theta's Central Office. When Theta opened the Indianapolis headquarters, dedicated archives space was planned and quickly filled.

In 1997, a project archivist was hired to work with the Fraternity archivist at headquarters and on the collection. The archives now encompass more than 600 linear feet and more than two terabytes of digital files. It is primarily the archives of the enterprise (Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity/Theta Foundation/Fraternity Housing Corporation [FHC]) but also contains materials from chapters and individual members' experiences.

The paper records and digital records fall into broad categories: governance, meetings, college chapters, alumnae groups, members, publications, administration, artifacts, and

photographs. We acquire the majority of materials from departments and various officers as they transition roles, clean out files, and update records, but we also receive many donations from members and families of past members.

When I receive materials, I review the items and do some "weeding," or eliminating duplicates and removing items that do not fit within our collection policy. I evaluate items for any preservation needs. I remove items from containers, binders, and frames that may damage the items over time. I use archival storage materials as much as possible to help protect the items. We not only receive paper-based items, but also digital files, artifacts, and photographs.

All these materials help answer questions I receive from members, staff, officers, and the public. Question topics range from policy, chapter, and member history, and the broader impact of fraternities and sororities. I am never bored because I never know where a question will take me, and I always learn something new! I love being able to connect members



or their families to materials from the archives. I also often use these items in exhibits, in writing articles for magazines or blogs for the website, and for presentations.

The archives provides the institutional memory for Theta and its members, encompassing the stories of those who came before us. It is an ever-evolving project as time goes on with new members being initiated and as we look back with fresh insights at Theta's history.

The archives welcomes questions and donations of historical materials. Visit the heritage area of the Theta website (kappalphatheta.org/heritage) to contact the archives and to learn more about Theta's history.

Meet the 2021 Founders Memorial Scholarship Recipients

The Founders Memorial Scholarships were first awarded at the Centennial Grand Convention in 1970. At the time, the awards were \$1,000 each. More than 50 years later, they are still Theta Foundation's most prestigious awards, but today, they are a life-changing \$12,000 each. Awarded to the top four junior applicants every year, the recipients are intentionally matched with a specific founder based on their shared accomplishments and characteristics. Please join us in celebrating these outstanding recipients!

2020-2021 Theta Foundation Grant & Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the 326 college and alumnae members and four chapters that received more than \$850,000 in Theta Foundation grants and scholarships during the 2020-2021 fiscal year! Learn more by reading Theta Foundation's 2020-2021 Scholarship & Grant Impact Report via the Theta website: kappaalphatheta.org/blog/foundation/theta-foundation-scholarships-and-grants-supporting-the-educational-dreams-of-thetas. The report features all scholarship and grant recipients from the past year and showcases Theta's values of academic excellence and the widest influence for good at work on campuses, in communities, and around the world.



Maddie Smith, Beta Epsilon/Oregon State
Bettie Locke Hamilton Founders Memorial Scholarship

Maddie served Beta Epsilon as chief financial officer (CFO) and played a significant role in how her chapter responded to the challenges brought on by the pandemic, namely lowering membership dues in order to retain as many members as possible. She works as an undergraduate teaching assistant for the College of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at Oregon State, for which her employer has commended her for contributions that are typically expected from graduate-level teaching assistants. Maddie is committed to opening doors for other female computer science students in celebration and recognition of those who once opened those same doors for her.



Caitlyn Lansing, Alpha Psi/Lawrence
Alice Allen Brant Founders Memorial Scholarship

As a sophomore, Caitlyn was hired as a substitute teacher for a local elementary and middle school. Her supervisor noted, "her commitment to making sure that our students' education continues even when the lead teacher is not in the room is exceptional." She volunteers with elementary school students with special needs and provides online tutoring to children from unstable homes. Last year, Caitlyn was the student with the most service hours at Lawrence University. As the current chief recruiting officer (CRO) and former chief learning officer (CLO), Caitlyn is helping her chapter recover from the effects of the Abolish Greek Life (AGL) movement on Lawrence's campus.



Anna Koestner, Epsilon Iota/Westminster
Bettie Tipton Lindsey Founders Memorial Scholarship

As a member of the Student Foundation, the Honors Program, and a student ambassador, Anna is one of a few carefully chosen students who represents Westminster to important visitors. She was recently inducted into the Skulls of Seven, an honors society comprised of only seven students who represent certain virtues, and one of the oldest traditions on campus: Anna was chosen to represent scholarship. Anna currently serves her chapter as chief executive officer (CEO) and managed to plan and execute a COVID-19-compliant in-person initiation ceremony for the 2020 new member class, giving them a more meaningful initiation experience, and giving the seniors one last emotional initiation to take with them.



Erin Hartegan, Delta Eta/Kansas State
Hannah Fitch Shaw Founders Memorial Scholarship

Erin was chief financial officer (CFO) of Delta Eta at the onset of the pandemic, witnessing first-hand the financial challenges that members faced. She now serves as director of finance on Kansas State's Panhellenic Council in order to help make the fraternity/sorority experience more accessible and inclusive. Academically, she helps advance the engineering field as an ambassador and mentor for the industrial engineering honors society and has interned at powerhouse companies such as Bayer, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and Deloitte.

LEADING WOMAN

JULIA LINK ROBERTS, ALPHA MU/MISSOURI, IS A DECORATED ACADEMIC. A DEDICATED ADVOCATE IN THE FIELD OF GIFTED EDUCATION, JULIA IS NO STRANGER TO CHALLENGES AND PROBLEM SOLVING AND IS DEVOTED TO CLOSING THE EXCELLENCE GAP AND FINDING PROPER EDUCATION FOR ALL GIFTED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE—REGARDLESS OF WHO THEY ARE AND WHERE THEY COME FROM. JULIA'S COMMITMENT TO PERSONALIZED EDUCATION AND HIGH-LEVEL LEARNING MAKES HER A **LEADING WOMAN.**



I was a pretty naïve rushee when I went to University of Missouri (Mizzou) in the fall of 1958. It seemed like participating in recruitment was the first step to becoming a full-fledged university student. At the time, I had no idea the impact joining a sorority on the rest of my life. However, from my current perspective, I am well aware that lifetime friends were the greatest benefit of being a member of Kappa Alpha Theta at the University of Missouri. There

were also benefits accrued from leadership opportunities within the chapter and on campus. For example, I was asked to join Mortar Board and I was initiated into Phi Beta Kappa. My Theta sisters have stayed important to me over the decades. Judy Kay Myers Bellemere, a very talented Alpha Mu Chapter sister and dear friend, drew the illustrations for *Introduction to Gifted Education*, a book that I had a hand in editing and that is currently in the process of getting published. This support and these connections have stayed incredibly important to me.

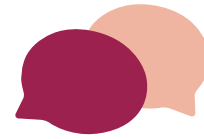
Gifted education describes the collective strategies and practices that are used in educating children who have been identified as gifted or talented. My career in gifted education, and passion for the field, began in the summer of 1964 when I worked at Maple Park Middle School in Kansas City and my principal asked me to teach a summer reading class to gifted students. I began The

Center for Gifted Studies at Western Kentucky University (WKU) 40 years ago, and I have held the Mahurin Endowed Professorship in Gifted Studies at WKU for almost 20 years now. About 15 years ago, The Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science was opened at WKU, and I serve as executive director of both The Center for Gifted Studies and The Gatton Academy. Most recently, I just completed a four-year term as president of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children.

I wish everyone would understand that the needs of children and young people with gifts and talents must be specially nurtured if these children and young people are to have the proper opportunities to develop their full potential. Standard practices like proficiency and grade-level learning likely aren't challenges or goals for children with gifts and talents, so they are often held back in classrooms in which grade-level learning is the focus. A high proportion of the leaders of the future will be from this group of young people and we need to prepare them to be exceptional thinkers and ethical problem-solvers. Something that motivates me to continue my work in education is the importance of creating awareness of the need to eliminate the excellence gap by advocating at the state, national, and international levels. Gifted children and young people are members of all racial and ethnic groups and can be found in all socio-economic levels.

Being a leading woman means capturing the opportunity to share important ideas with others at various levels: local, state, national, and international. Being a leading woman means to be a good role model for young people and the future leaders who will work to solve the challenges of the 21st century.

Theta's ELC Program: **REDESIGNED**



Since 1959, Theta's educational leadership consultants (ELCs) have provided customized support and resources for Theta chapters to enhance and add value to their college experience. ELCs are recent college graduates who serve Theta in a visible role through in-person and/or virtual college chapter visits. In April 2020, Theta had to temporarily cancel the program due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, the ELC program is returning, but it is very different! Changes to this program are intended to allow the ELCs to focus even more on educational and leadership initiatives. We created this Q&A to clarify the changes to the ELC program that have gone into effect for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Here's what the ELC program looks like now...

ELCs focus on providing leadership workshops to chapter members and officers. As a result of these workshops, they can host individual coaching sessions on the topic they presented with any individual. Types of workshops could include CliftonStrengths; teamwork; conflict resolution; diversity, equity, & inclusion (DEI); and belonging. ELCs are trained to facilitate workshops both in person and virtually depending on the needs of the chapter and/or any health and safety regulations on campus.

What do ELCs do on a chapter visit?

An ELC may facilitate multiple workshops on a single visit. It is possible that there could be an all-member workshop, a workshop for all cabinet officers, and a workshop for the executive committee. Depending on the needs of the chapter, the ELC might present workshops for other committees to provide knowledge and skills to address problems, offer general DEI training, or perform small group activities related to CliftonStrengths.

What don't ELCs do anymore that they used to do on a visit?

ELCs no longer hold meetings specific to Theta or chapter operations (i.e., officer, advisor, or fraternity/sorority life advisor meetings) on visits. Committee meetings are about workshops or training on other general topics. ELCs are not trained on Theta operations and therefore are not be equipped to provide guidance and assistance to chapters in these areas.

What if a chapter has a Theta-specific need?

With the absence of the ELC program this past academic year, chapters have been working with Theta headquarters staff and volunteers to address their Theta-specific questions—something that ELCs previously would have done. We determine these chapter needs and connect staff or volunteers to chapters to help consult and provide guidance and suggestions. The ELCs are prepared to direct Theta-specific questions to the designated staff member or volunteer.

How are chapter visits determined and prioritized?

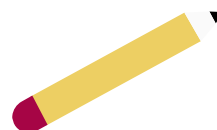
The strategy of determining chapter visits is based on a few points of data: annual chapter survey findings, chapter officer and advisor surveys, and volunteer input. (If you would like to request a visit for your chapter, please let your chapter officers or advisors know!)

Are there different types of visits for different needs?

Yes; each visit is based on what the chapter needs and/or suggestions from staff and volunteers. In an effort to align with Kappa Alpha Theta's strategic plan, we customize support to each chapter rather than having different types of visits like years past (recruitment, elections, risk management, etc.). This means that a visit could include a chapter-wide DEI presentation, a CliftonStrengths workshop for the cabinet, a conflict management training for the member development committee (MDC), or a mix of all three.

How does a chapter prepare for an ELC visit?

Chapters should prepare to host the ELC for a three-day visit. Chapter officers receive resources to prepare for the visit and members may also receive pre-visit materials. For example, members might receive a CliftonStrengths code to take the online assessment before the workshop.





WHO ARE THIS YEAR'S ELCs?

We're thrilled to welcome three remarkable young women to serve as ELCs this year; all three consultants will make virtual and in-person visits during the fall 2021 semester.



Stephanie Mitchener earned her undergraduate degree from UC San Diego in Cognitive Science specializing Design and Interaction. Reflecting upon her previous experience as a software engineer, Stephanie said, "I felt like I was missing so much of the people-oriented work that I was doing in college. The ELC role is an amazing opportunity to engage with students, help them hone the skills they are practicing in their college activities and organizations, and help them connect those skills to life beyond college." Stephanie dreams about becoming an Imagineer at Disney one day and using her technical skills to create innovative and exciting experiences. She loves hiking and spontaneous trips to the beach.



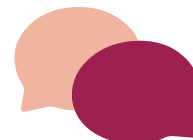
Christine Keylian earned bachelor's degrees in English and in Secondary Education from the University of Nevada, Reno. She has a passion for education and encouraging others to be the best version of themselves. In the future, Christine hopes to return to school to achieve a master's degree and to become a full-time English teacher: "One of my long-term goals is to work at a university. I love the environment of college campuses, and it would be a dream to call one my place of work. The exciting thing about being in this position as an ELC is it gives me time to deeply think about my long-term professional goals and insight into what working in higher education looks like before committing to a degree in it." Christine's happiest when she's outside enjoying warm, sunny weather.



Gigi Gaultier received her Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology from the University of Washington, Seattle and is halfway done with her master's degree in Student Development Administration from Seattle University. Gigi is passionate about advancing inclusive equity in higher education and leadership development. About her long-term goals, Gigi said, "[I plan] to complete my master's and continue to develop and teach leadership workshops for university students. I want to continue to focus on DEI efforts in higher education and potentially one day connect this back to the marine biology field." Gigi loves spending time with her two cats, Linguine and Fettuccine, and soaking up eye-catching sunsets.



The ELC program is made possible by Theta Foundation. If you have any questions about the ELC program, please send an email to elcprogram@kappaalphatheta.org.



10

ERIN SMITH

Epsilon Zeta/Mississippi

**TEN
QUESTIONS
WITH
ONE
THETA**

ERIN SMITH, EPSILON ZETA/MISSISSIPPI, IS THE FOUNDING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR CASA OF LAFAYETTE COUNTY. SHE FOUND HER PASSION FOR CASA AS A MEMBER OF EPSILON ZETA CHAPTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI. ERIN IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE LOU (LAFAYETTE-OXFORD-UNIVERSITY) COMMUNITY: SHE HAS SERVED AS AN AMBASSADOR FOR THE LOU CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR THE PAST SEVEN YEARS, SHE SERVES ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, SHE IS ON THE STEERING COMMITTEE FOR JUNIOR LEADERSHIP LAFAYETTE, SHE SERVES AS COMMISSIONER ON THE CITY OF OXFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION, AND SHE IS THE CHAIRMAN FOR THE MISSISSIPPI COALITION OF CASA PROGRAMS. ERIN IS THE RECIPIENT OF MANY AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS, INCLUDING THE OXFORD-LAFAYETTE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD, 2019 EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE AWARD FROM FRATERNITY & SORORITY LIFE, KAPPA ALPHA THETA'S 35 UNDER 35, AND OXFORD'S TOP 20 UNDER 40. ERIN CURRENTLY SERVES THETA AS A COLLEGE DISTRICT DIRECTOR (CDD) AND AS A MEMBER OF THE CHAPTER AND INDIVIDUAL GRANTS COMMITTEE. WE'RE INCREDIBLY LUCKY ERIN FOUND THE TIME TO ANSWER OUR 10 QUESTIONS!

1 I UNDERSTAND YOU BEGAN A CASA PROGRAM IN OXFORD, MISS. WHAT WAS IT ABOUT CASA OR THETA OR OXFORD (OR A COMBINATION OF THE THREE?) THAT FUELED YOUR DRIVE TO START THE PROGRAM?

Before Theta, I had not heard of CASA; I found my passion for CASA because of Theta. Once I graduated from the University of Mississippi—affectionately known as Ole Miss to most—I knew I wanted to get involved with CASA, but there were no programs near me. The closest one was in Memphis, Tenn., so I became a volunteer there and stayed with that program for four years until I eventually decided to start a program in Oxford. I thought, if I could start a CASA program, I can raise that awareness about the abuse and neglect going on around us. I have always loved helping people and I knew CASA would fulfill that passion of mine.

2 WHAT'S ONE THING THAT MAKES YOUR DAY?

I love being able to make someone else's day through a small act of kindness. Having been raised in the South, I was always taught to be kind; it is one of the easiest things. You never know the impact you can have on a stranger or someone you know through a small act of kindness, and you also never know what someone else is going through. For me, that is important.

3 WHAT DO YOU VALUE IN YOUR FRIENDS?

Loyalty and selflessness. Friendships take work, and for me, it is essential to be willing to put in the work to make them last. I have many Theta friends that do not live near me, but if you value that friendship at the end of the day, you will put in a little extra time. These two things are how friendships grow and become lifelong relationships.

4 CATS, DOGS, OR HOUSE PLANTS?

Dogs all the way!! I can't keep a houseplant alive long enough to like them. I have had dogs my whole life until recently. I lost my sweet Marlee and Simon within seven months of each other; it was one of the hardest things. The thing about dogs is that they are so compassionate and loving without ever saying a word. If love could save them, they would live forever. But we are so lucky to have something so wonderful with our four-legged friends that makes saying goodbye so hard.

5 WHAT'S ONE ITEM ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?

To become the Mayor of Oxford!

6 WHAT'S A QUALITY OR SKILL OF YOURS THAT DISTINGUISHES YOU OR THAT YOU'RE MOST PROUD OF?

My ability to bring all different types of people together and connect them. I have a wide variety of friend groups, but I really value getting them all together in one space and encouraging them to mingle with one another.

7 "LOOKING AT ME, NO ONE WOULD GUESS..."

That I am an ordained minister; if you are looking for one, I travel!

8 WHAT'S YOUR GUILTY PLEASURE?

Mine is music. I love nothing more than to come home after a long day, turn off the television, turn on the music, pour a glass of wine, sit on my back porch, and watch a sunset. It brings me so much happiness at the end of the day.

9 WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THETA MEMORY?

Theta has played such a massive role in my life for almost 20 years; I don't think I could name one memory. I am so incredibly thankful for the organization and what it has given me in life. It has not only taught me lessons about how to face challenging times and how to deal with people, but it has given me so many great friends, mentors, and role models. When people ask why I volunteer with Theta, my response is always the same: It is a hands-on way I can give back to the organization that has given me so much in life.

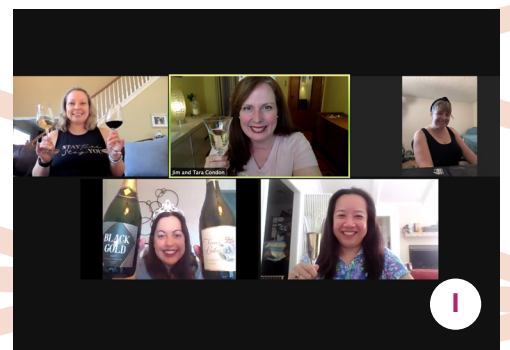
10 WHAT DOES THE CONCEPT OF "WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN" MEAN TO YOU?

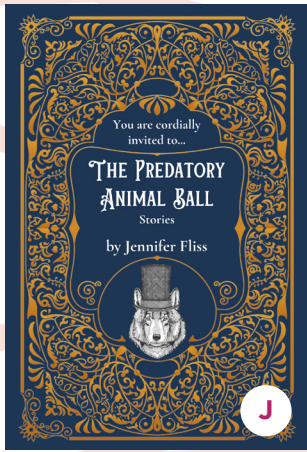
We live in a world where almost everyone we meet is overwhelmed, insecure, and under-encouraged. More often than not, the people that fall into these categories are women. For me, it is imperative to take the time to show support, compassion, and kindness to other women. Women supporting women looks a lot like simply being there, asking things like, "What do you need?" "I hear you," "Whatever you feel is okay," and "How can I help?" There are so many ways we can support one another, but you must have empathy and understand how to meet people where they are.



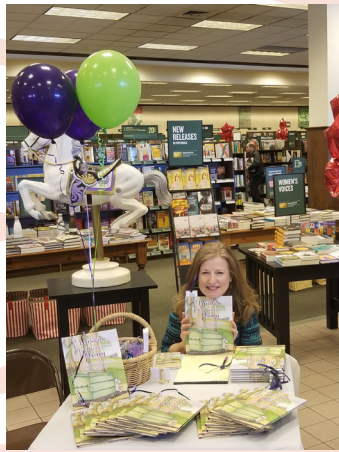
REUNIONS

- A** This Columbus, Ohio Theta lunch group has been in existence since 1935, meeting in homes monthly throughout the year. Pictured are Thetas who attended the June 2021 gathering: **Pam Hecker Galipault, Beta Lambda/William & Mary; Laurie McGregor Connor, Gamma deuteron/Ohio Wesleyan; Blair Charles Adams, Alpha Gamma/Ohio State; Susan McVey, Gamma Upsilon/Miami; Brenda Dorn Conard, Alpha Gamma/Ohio State; Sally Bell Riebel, Alpha Gamma/Ohio State; Barbara Young Sipp, Alpha Gamma/Ohio State; Millie Jenkins McVey, Alpha Gamma/Ohio State; and Sue Robinson Switzer, Alpha Gamma/Ohio State.**
- B** Nashville Alumnae Chapter members began meeting for in-person lunches in June to the relief of members who had been connecting via Zoom. **Mary Bess Corbin, Epsilon Epsilon/Baylor,** sent this picture and said, "It was so great to be back in person with our sisters!" Pictured from their June Lunch Bunch are **Cathy Cook Krumm, Epsilon Zeta/Mississippi; Beth Martin, Delta Omicron/Alabama; Caryl Hippler Johnson, Delta Theta/Florida; and Mary Bess Corbin.**
- C** Area Thetas joined **Mary Ellen Kutsenda Fitzsimonds, Beta Kappa/Drake,** who hosted a wine tasting party for the 1870 Wine Club's initial offering. Mary Ellen said, "Everything was wonderful!! Wines are exquisite and food pairings were fun! Lots of happy Theta sisters!"
- D** Members of the **New Orleans Alumnae Chapter** had a fun gathering in July.
- E** **Vall Schofield Light, Gamma Sigma/San Diego State,** shared this picture of a **Palos Verdes Peninsula Alumnae Chapter** outdoor gathering. She said, "[W]e were all so happy to be together!"
- F** This summer, some of our **Providence Alumnae Chapter** sisters gathered for croquet and cocktails at The Ocean House in Westerly, Rhode Island. Pictured are **Pam Sawyer Madigan, Beta Tau/Denison; Kim Lucas Churchill, Delta Phi/Clemson; Lauren Hill, Gamma Tau/Tulsa; Kristin Quartuccio Schopac, Eta Iota/San Diego; and Mary Emmel Cooper, Beta Rho/Duke.** Pam said, "We feel blessed to meet and connect with Theta sisters from different schools residing in our beautiful ocean state."
- G** **Anne-Marie Bielinski Crowley, Psi/Wisconsin,** shared a picture of a Sunday morning walk with other **Psi/Wisconsin** Thetas. Paused in front of the Milwaukee Art Museum, pictured are **Cheryl Naasko-Pounds, Jennifer Drury Buzacky, Kristi Morgenson Wescott, Krista Kriedeman Verhein, Anne-Marie Bielinski Crowley, Jill Vierbicher Sanders,** and **Jennifer Smith.**
- H** Members of the **Wichita Alumnae Chapter** enjoyed gathering for Founders Day.
- I** A virtual wine tasting for the 1870 Wine Club's initial offering was enjoyed by all participants. Pictured are **Mary Howard Leppo, Delta Upsilon/Eastern Kentucky; TJ Flynn Condon, Epsilon Lambda/Dickinson; Liz Hill, Zeta Rho/UC San Diego; Alicia Lee, Zeta Omicron/Wake Forest; and Christiane Hoffman Frank, Zeta Omega/Loyola Marymount.**

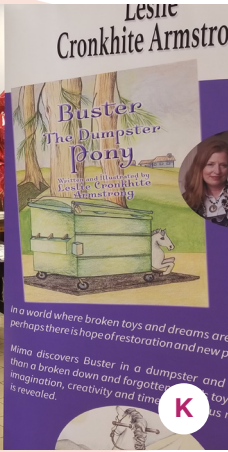




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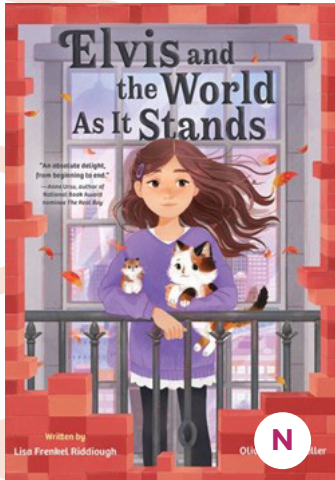
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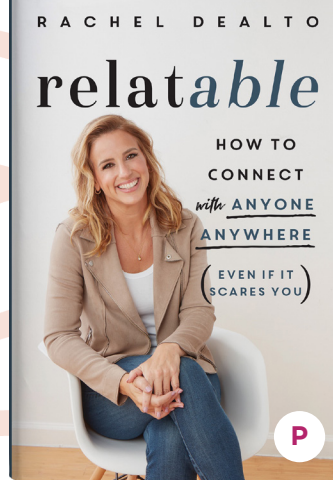
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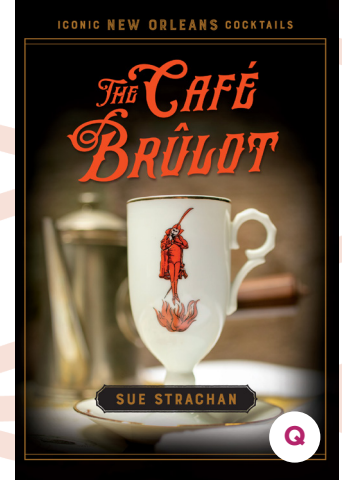
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ACCOMPLISHMENTS & EVENTS

- J** **Jennifer Englert Fliss, Psi/Wisconsin**, is releasing *The Predatory Animal Ball*, a book of her short stories, on Dec. 1, 2021. Predators appear in the places we least expect with absurd and cutting results. These stories are about the people left in the predators' wake, and the large and small ways their grief and fear manifests.
- K** *Buster The Dumpster Pony* is a new young children's book written by **Leslie Cronkhite Armstrong, Beta Theta/Idaho**. In a world where broken toys and dreams are discarded, perhaps there is hope of restoration and new possibilities.
- L** **Mindy Levengood Cockeram, Epsilon Xi/Villanova**, has published her third book, *Pregnant Again? A Childbirth & Breastfeeding Refresher*. Mindy is a Lamaze Certified Childbirth Educator who teaches for a large hospital organization in Southern California.
- M** A television news anchor in Phoenix for *Good Morning Arizona*, **Olivia Fierro, Beta Xi/UCLA**, also hosts *Olivia's Book Club* as a community outreach program encouraging reading and building unique connections. This year, Olivia introduced a podcast under the same name. Olivia shared a picture with her **Beta Xi Chapter** sisters on a recent girls' weekend to Tucson. **Olivia, Natalie Escoboza Badillo, Kate Mulhearn Flannery, and Allison West Hughes** make a tradition of weekends together annually.

- N** **Lisa Frenkel Riddiough, Beta Iota/Colorado**, has written a middle-grade children's book about loss and finding family from the view of a newly adopted kitten: *Elvis and the World as it Stands*.
- O** The **Omaha Alumnae Chapter** recently awarded its annual scholarship to **Grace MacLeod, Beta Delta/Arizona**. Grace double majors in Physiology/Medical Sciences and Public Health while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. This award would not have been possible without the generosity of the scholarship donors, whom the Omaha Alumnae Chapter thanks for their support!
- P** **Rachel Koerner DeAlto, Chi/Syracuse**, published a new book called *Relatable: How to Connect with Anyone Anywhere (Even if It Scares You)*. The book discusses how to improve your social skills in every setting from networking events to dating.
- Q** *The Café Brûlot*, a new book by **Sue Strachan, Alpha Phi/Tulane**, examines the cocktail that was born of a legend, showcasing New Orleans's love of flavored drama. A combination of coffee, liquor, and fire, Café Brûlot also goes by the name Café Brûlot Diabolique, or "devilishly incendiary coffee." Sue delves into the history of the cocktail, the story of its various ingredients, and the customary implements used to serve it.



ALUMNAE & COLLEGIANS

- R** **Debbie Parke Smith** and **Lynda Carpenter Morris**, both 1971 **Beta Mu/Nevada** initiates, celebrated 50 years of sisterhood by wearing their new 50-year pansy pins in this photo they took together.
- S** **Beta/Indiana** alumnae from Indiana, Virginia, and Massachusetts had fun gathering. Pictured are **Kelly Leer Jacobs, Alisa Hendrix, Jan Kepley Keefer, and Andrea Fekkes Dynes**.
- T** Three Thetas vacationing for the summer in Crested Butte, Colo. met for weekly tennis clinics, establishing new friendships and tennis skills alike. Pictured are **Georgia Trapp Nolan, Delta Omega/Texas A&M; Grace Morison, Gamma Psi/TCU, and Janet McBride Hicks, Alpha Omicron/Oklahoma**.
- U** **Gamma Iota/Kentucky** alumnae enjoyed a football tailgate at Kroger Field, Lexington. Pictured are **Kelly King, Natalie Trussell Paschall, Jennifer Connor Codell, Brittany Porter Hanson, and Ashley Leslie Turner**.



A New Place for Comfort

at Delta Theta Chapter

In August 2021, the Delta Theta house at the University of Florida received some interior design updates in the common areas of the first floor. Following surveys and conversations with chapter members and advisors, it was decided to switch the living and dining spaces; this allows chapter members a living area that offers even more space to lounge, watch television, and gather with friends. The space is adorned with different types of seating including a large sectional, study tables with chairs, and additional sofas and lounge chairs. Hints of Theta are plentiful throughout the room and, paired with photos of chapter members, make the space feel even homier and more personalized for Delta Theta Chapter members.



Warm Up This Season with Theta Wines



Don't miss out on joining the 1870 Club!

The fall collection, which launched earlier this month, includes a pinot noir, cabernet sauvignon, and a Cuvee Blanc white wine blend. As a member, you will also have access to the three inaugural wines. These premium, limited-production wines are handcrafted exclusively for members of the 1870 Club. Black & Gold Napa Valley provides Theta alumnae the unique opportunity to experience and enjoy delicious wines from America's most renowned wine country while reflecting on their connection to the first Greek-letter fraternity for women. Each label was thoughtfully designed and created to honor and celebrate Theta's rich history.

Sign up today for 1870 Club and receive your wines just in time for the holidays!

For more information, visit
www.blackandgoldnapa.com.

Are you looking for a special gift for a Theta?

These limited edition wines are available now and here's the best part: You don't have to be a member of the 1870 Club to purchase these special wines!

www.blackandgoldnapa.com/black-friday

This holiday offer ends Friday, Dec. 17, 2021.



The 1870 Wine Club is open to anyone 21 years of age or older.



▲ Alumnae from Gamma Nu/North Dakota State

A SPECIAL NOTE TO OUR 50-YEAR MEMBERS

Since your initiation into Kappa Alpha Theta, you have seen many changes in the world around you. You have also seen many changes in our Fraternity. But, one thing has not changed: Theta's commitment to provide special opportunities for social, intellectual, and moral growth. Providing these opportunities does not come without a cost, and the Life Loyal program helps to offset those costs. Life Loyal was created to honor and recognize the thousands of Thetas who have lived our ideals and who want better services and opportunities for current and future collegians and alumnae.

Members who were initiated more than 50 years ago can enroll at a special reduced rate. Please consider taking advantage of this unique opportunity and joining this special level of Kappa Alpha Theta.

BECOME A LIFE LOYAL THETA!

THESE WOMEN ENROLLED BETWEEN MAY 1 AND JULY 31, 2021

Alpha/DePauw
Lisa Foerster Musgrave
Gamma/Butler
Laurel Mikalouski
Abby Souder
Mu/Allegheny
Carol Sorochtey Alcott
Pi/Albion
Tina Valka Ford
Sarah Hogberg Forster
Rho/Nebraska
Susie Jackson Costanzo
Upsilon/Minnesota
Lisa Savage
Omega/UC Berkeley
Kathryn Donnelly Blair
Tracy George
Alpha Eta/Vanderbilt
Caroline Rippeto
Alpha Theta/Texas
Kelly Hardwick Aaron
Elizabeth Archer Adams
Ashley Ball
Kate Gooden Ford
Rainey Johnson Janke
Helen Tipps Watkins
Alpha Iota/Washington-St. Louis
Kristine Dressel Deringer
Alpha Rho/South Dakota
Grace Moran
Pam Johnson Whorley
Beta Delta/Arizona
Grace MacLeod

Beta Epsilon/Oregon State
Rebecca Nance
Beta Eta/Pennsylvania
Margot McDowell Cutting
Beta Iota/Colorado
Jenny Pakula
Beta Nu/Florida State
Kristen Topping Cheun
Angel Cantrell Forehand
Joanie Schoeppner Till
Beta Xi/UCLA
Antonia Klima
Taylor Moseley
Beta Sigma/SMU
Kathleen Dies Munger
Beta Phi/Penn State
Carole Kersh Sheviakov
Gamma Delta/Georgia
Carole Conniff Carlisle
Maitland Hood
Gamma Epsilon/Western Ontario
Maddy Brinkmann
Gamma Zeta/Connecticut
Joell Pacelli Gray
Gamma Iota/Kentucky
Ursula Miller Melhuish
Gamma Sigma/San Diego State
Elizabeth Eagle Nemeth
Gamma Phi/Texas Tech
Amanda Hall Head
Ellen Matthews
Gamma Psi/TCU
Amy Zinsmeyer Fouke
Deb Hartgrove Hofmann

Delta Kappa/LSU
Jude-Anna Mercer Sadlier
Delta Omicron/Alabama
Laura Hurd
Carlisle Perryman Kennedy
Sara Elizabeth Woodard Phillips
Delta Omega/Texas A&M
Elle Fischer
Carolyn Whitten
Holly Holmes Wukasch
Epsilon Epsilon/Baylor
Jackie Alvarenga Gerber
Hailey Stogner
Epsilon Kappa/Dartmouth
Karen Wicke Boyle
Epsilon Omicron/Randolph-Macon
Lisa Nyholm Boll
Sarah Smyrl Burke
Zeta Chi/Johns Hopkins
Emily Herman
Zeta Psi/Southern Mississippi
Jackie Northrup
Eta Xi/Quinnipiac
Hailey Conger
Eta Sigma/Chapman
Allie Ma
Eta Tau/Tampa
Alana Ziegler
Theta Omicron/UNC Charlotte
Alyssa Martin

LIFE LOYAL MEMBERS RECEIVE

- A lifetime subscription to the *Kappa Alpha Theta Magazine*,
- Fraternity dues payments for life*,
- A handcrafted lapel pin,
- A personalized wallet card,
- Special leadership and educational opportunities available only to Life Loyal members, and more!

*Not including alumnae chapter dues.

HOW DO I ENROLL?

ONLINE

Simply go to thetalifeloyal.org to join and pay online.

PHONE

Call Theta headquarters, **800-526-1870 ext. 140**, to provide your contact and payment information over the phone.

MAIL

Print the enrollment form available at thetalifeloyal.org and mail the completed form with your check or credit card information to:

Kappa Alpha Theta
attn: Angela Merk
8740 Founders Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46268

Service for Good

Theta's Day of Service, recognized each year on Bettie Locke Hamilton's birthday, brings collegians and alumnae together all over the world for the common goal of spreading the widest influence for good. Every October 19, Thetas commit to do something meaningful and impactful in their respective communities.

Activities could include volunteering for local food pantries, spreading awareness of an important cause on social media, picking up trash at a local park, or simply writing a note for or reaching out to someone in your community who might be struggling emotionally. Day of Service is a day for you to decide how and where you want to make an impact.



▲ South Orange County Alumnae Chapter



▲ Beta Zeta/Oklahoma State



▲ Los Angeles Alumnae Chapter



▲ Central Florida Alumnae Chapter



▲ Epsilon Rho/Lehigh



▲ Beta Iota/Colorado



▲ Beta Omicron/Iowa

If you post your own pictures on social media of your Day of Service activities, use the hashtag #ThetaDayofService so we can see the good you're up to! And, please consider sending us your Day of Service pictures and stories: marketing@kappaalphatheta.org.

Powered by:
Graduway**Theta**CONNECT

HAVEN'T LOGGED IN LATELY? *HERE'S WHAT YOU'VE MISSED!*

- More than **5,800** members have now joined
- **100+** jobs on the Job Board, including full-time positions, part-time positions, and internships
- **20+** events, fundraisers, and local chapter events on the Event Board
- **70+** feed posts where members solicit help, post new ideas, and share what they are doing
- Several new groups, including local alumnae and college chapter groups
- The **Virtual Thetas** group, where you can find event registration information and a schedule of upcoming events
- A **monthly digest** showcasing ideas of how you can make your ThetaConnect experience meaningful and rewarding
- A **new mentor program** will be available in January; check back on the platform later this year for more details

Come back and catch up!

New to ThetaConnect? Want to know more?
Check us out at **<http://thetacconnect.org>** or download the Graduway Community app and search for "Kappa Alpha Theta."

Voices

**LIFE LOYAL WAS CREATED
TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE
THE THOUSANDS OF THETAS
WHO HAVE LIVED OUR IDEALS
AND WHO WANT BETTER
SERVICES AND OPPORTUNITIES
FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE
COLLEGIANS AND ALUMNAE.**

**"Life Loyal"
(See page 20.)**

**THERE ARE SO
MANY WAYS WE
CAN SUPPORT ONE
ANOTHER, BUT YOU
MUST HAVE EMPATHY
AND UNDERSTAND
HOW TO MEET PEOPLE
WHERE THEY ARE.**

**Erin Smith
Epsilon Zeta/Mississippi
(See page 12.)**

**THE ARCHIVES PROVIDES THE INSTITUTIONAL
MEMORY FOR THETA AND ITS MEMBERS,
ENCOMPASSING THE STORIES OF THOSE WHO
CAME BEFORE US.**

**Noraleen Duvall Young
Alpha Chi/Purdue
(See page 7.)**

**BEING A LEADING WOMAN MEANS TO
BE A GOOD ROLE MODEL FOR YOUNG
PEOPLE AND THE FUTURE LEADERS
WHO WILL WORK TO SOLVE THE
CHALLENGES OF THE 21ST CENTURY.**

**Julia Link Roberts
Alpha Mu/Missouri
(See page 9.)**

DO YOU LIKE SAVING MONEY?

Kappa Alpha Theta members could save money
with a special discount on car insurance.



GEICO
MEMBER DISCOUNT



KAPPA ALPHA THETA

geico.com/greek/kappaalphatheta | 1-800-368-2734 | Local Agent